Hunt, Charging Libel, Files $3.5 Million Suit

MIAMI, May 7 (AP) — E. Howard Hunt Jr., the convicted Watergte burglar, filed a $3.5 million libel suit in Federal court yesterday against Victor Marchetti, who had charged that Mr. Hunt had been involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Also named as a defendant was Liberty Lobby, publisher of a weekly newspaper called Spotlight. Mr. Marchetti, who, like Mr. Hunt, is a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency, wrote the article accusing Mr. Hunt of helping to plan the 1963 assassination. It was published in the Aug. 14, 1978, issue of Spotlight.

Mr. Hunt asked $1 million in compensatory damages and $2.5 million in punitive damages, saying, "Circulation of libels and slanders concerning me have damaged me economically by closing many doors in the publishing industry and lecture circuit."

There was no immediate response from the defendants.